

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 FEA-02 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /195 W

----- 011938

R 130903Z SEP 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REF: SEOUL 5815

SUMMARY: MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, KIM, DONG WHIE, EXPECTED RAISE MUSHROOM ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT DURING CURRENT VISIT FOR TEXTILE TALKS. EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED EFFORTS HERE, WITHOUT AVAIL, TO OBTAIN SOME KIND OF RESPONSE FROM MOFA. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, ROKG ONCE MORE STALLING IN HOPES USG WILL LOSE INTEREST, BUT EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH KIM. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, KIM, DONG WHIE, PLANNING DISCUSS MUSHROOM ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT
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DURING CURRENT VISIT IN WASHINGTON FOR U.S.-ROK TEXTILE

TALKS. ACCORDING CHOI, HO JOONG, MOFA DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, KIM IS EXPECTED TO RAISE ISSUE IN COURSE OF CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS WHICH ROK EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED REQUEST. CHOI DID NOT KNOW WHEN THIS CALL WAS SCHEDULED.

2. EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS MOFA WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR AFFIRMATION REGARDING OUTLOOK FOR MUSHROOM EXPORTS. ECON COUNSELOR RAISED ISSUE INFORMALLY SEPT. 9 DURING CALL ON MOFA VICE MINISTER LHO, SHIN YONG, STRESSING AGAIN THAT THIS WAS EFFORT ON PART OF USG TO TRY TO RESOLVE ISSUE WITHOUT NEED FOR FORMAL ACTION. LHO SIMPLY REITERATED MOFA'S EARLIER CLAIMS THAT IT IS TRYING TO RESPOND AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN FOLLOWUP CALL ON CHOI, EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT, IF ROKG UNABLE TO FURNISH AFFIRMATION REQUESTED, IT GIVE US WHATEVER STATEMENT ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR MUSHROOM EXPORTS IT CAN APPROPRIATELY MAKE. CHOI RESPONDED THAT ROKG CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (MAF) COMPLETES ITS STUDY, WHICH NOW IS SUPPOSED TO BE READY BY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: CONSIDERING ACTION EC HAS ALREADY TAKEN TO RESTRICT MUSHROOM IMPORTS AND LIKELIHOOD OF RESTRICTIONS IN CANADIAN MARKET AS SELL, ROKG AFFIRMATION OF IBRD ANALYSIS, WHICH ANTICIPATES THAT EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN MARKETS WILL ABSORB ALL INCREMENTAL EXPORT PRODUCTION, NOW APPEARS IMPROBABLE. WE HAD HOPED THAT ROKG MIGHT BE WILLING AT LEAST FURNISH STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY SEEKING DISCOURAGE FURTHER EXPANSION OF MUSHROOM INDUSTRY IN FACE OF CHANGING OUTLOOK FOR MUSHROOM EXPORTS. IT SEEMS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT ROKG HAS ONCE MORE DECIDED THAT BEST TACTIC IS TO SIMPLY KEEP STALLING IN HOPE USG WILL LOSE INTEREST. IN VIEW KIMS'S INTENTION RAISE ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF TELLING ROKG THAT WE HAVE INTERPRETED ABSENCE OF RESPONSE AS NEGATIVE RESPONSE, AS WE INDICATED WE WOULD DO IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFTEL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY DISCUSSION WITH KIM AND WHETHER, IN ABSENCE ANY MOFA STATEMENT HERE, WE SHOULD INFORM MOFA OF NEGATIVE RESPONSE INTERPRETATION PROPOSED REFTEL. ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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